



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability

Volume 2, Number 1, January 2016

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

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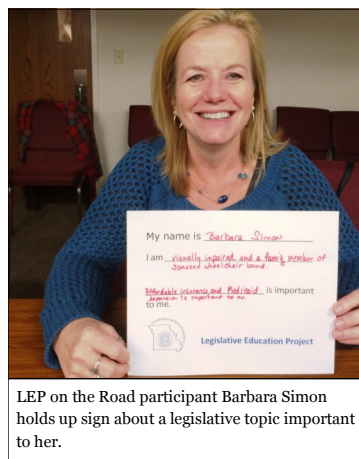
2016 Legislative Education Project (LEP) is underway

by Rob Honan

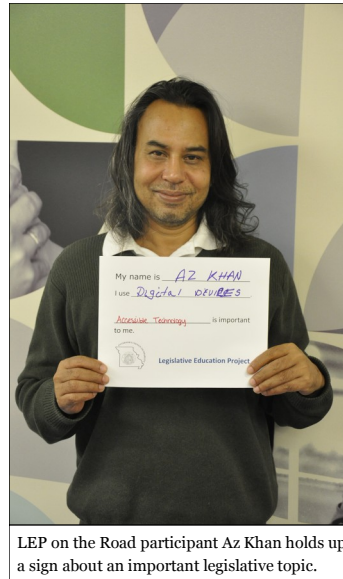
The 2016 Legislative Education Project (LEP) is off to an early and fast start.

LEP on the Road

Rob Honan and Laura Mueth have already presented at three centers for independent living in December, helping staff and consumers become more knowledgeable about the legislative process and ready for the upcoming legislative session.



LEP on the Road participant Barbara Simon holds up sign about a legislative topic important to her.



LEP on the Road participant Az Khan holds up a sign about an important legislative topic.

LEP at the Capitol

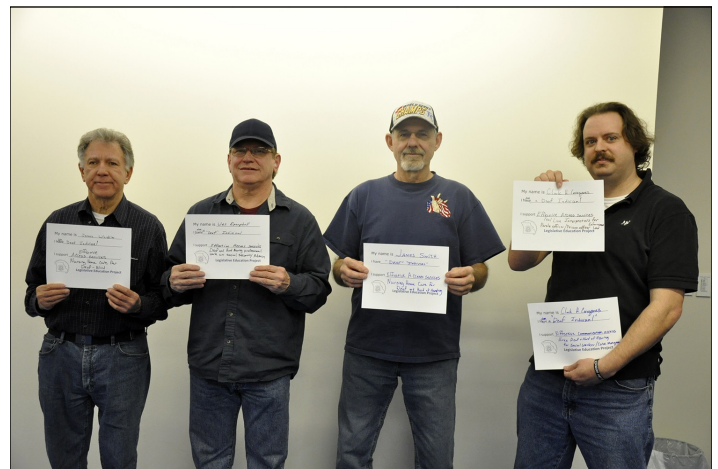
The Governor's Council on Disability staff is still offering a training at the Capitol in Jefferson City for those who are interested in receiving a legislative training "in the heart of the action." We have already had one school group schedule. There are no pre-set dates as in the past. If you would like to discuss bringing a group of advocates, contact Laura Mueth at 800-877-8249 or Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov.

LEP Online

Two of the learning modules: Understanding How a Bill Becomes a Law in Missouri and Your Elected Officials and General Assembly have been updated. The learning modules are available on the Legislative Education Project web page at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/LEP.htm>.

Videos about hearings and testimony, building a relationship with legislators, and voting are also available.

Pictured below is a group of LEP on the Road participants displaying signs about legislative topics that are important to them.



We would like to thank The Whole Person in Kansas City, Services for Independent Living in Columbia, and West-Central Independent Living Solutions in Warrensburg for hosting us. The LEP on the Road training may still be requested once the legislative session begins. If your organization is interested in hosting a training for your staff, consumers, families, or advocacy organization, contact Laura Mueth at 800-877-8249 or Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov.

Service Animal Fraud

by Laura Mueth

The Governor's Council on Disability has received many calls over the last few months from people concerned that their business is letting in fraudulent service dogs.

There is nothing a Missouri business can do at this time to prevent fake service dogs from entering the business.

are making efforts to alert the U.S. Department of Justice to the severity of the situation on a national level in hopes that it may bring about future changes.



Business owners or individuals with disabilities can help to educate individuals and legislators by talking to their friends and family about the issue, signing the Canine Companions for Independence [pledge](#), and talking to your state representative or senator and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Governor's Council on Disability is available to assist individuals or groups with crafting a message to share with your legislators.

Many individuals express concern about the inability to ask for some type of identification that the dog is a legitimate service dog. Many of them state they have no recourse under the current laws. Some comment that it is being abused by individuals who know they can get by with it.

The State of Missouri and the federal government do not have a law penalizing someone for impersonating a service dog, or that works to deter service animal fraud.

Several states have enacted laws making the act a crime. Organizations such as Canine Companions for Independence

MYLIFE Alumni Association

by Dawn Evans

Did you know that the Alumni of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum have formed their own organization called the *MYLIFE Alumni Association*?

panel discussions sharing messages on self-determination, advocacy, personal transition experiences, and outreach for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. Many have volunteered at organizations and initiated their own community projects including holding a holiday party for a day program in Kansas City in December.

Alumni speaking or volunteering for an event at your organization, contact Rachel Baskerville by emailing wheelsrkb5@aol.com.

MYLIFE Alumni Association Officers are:

Chair:
Rachel Baskerville, 2005

Co-Chair:
Sarah Schwegel, 2011

Treasurer:
Brian Chao, 2007

Secretary:
Kaitlyn Thompson, 2009

Board Member:
Colton Rich, 2014



MO-YLF alumni at a holiday party in Kansas City

There are now 244 graduates of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) who are role models and mentors for youth following in their footsteps. MYLIFE's mission is to support and sustain the MO-YLF through alumni engagement in promoting continued educational and leadership opportunities. Within the past couple of years a variety of Alumni have stepped out of their comfort zones to serve as keynote speakers and participate on

Every year, Alumni return to the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum to serve as volunteer staff and mentors. The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is what it is today because of the involvement of its Alumni. If your organization is interested in a MYLIFE

Win a MacBook Pro: Play the MO-YLF Raffle

Start your New Year by Winning a Mac When You Give Back to Missouri Youth with Disabilities!

1st Prize:
MacBook Pro with Retina display

2nd Prize: iPad Mini

3rd Prize:
\$100 Target Gift Card

Raffle Tickets: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20



For contest rules and details, or to purchase raffle tickets, please visit

<https://rallyup.com/mo-ylf-fundraiser2016>.

The money raised from this fundraiser will be used to help provide opportunities for 30 high schools students from across the state to attend the 14th Annual Missouri Youth Leadership Forum for Youth with Disabilities (MO-YLF) on July 12 - 16, 2016 at NO cost to the student or their families.

Funds raised from this raffle will also be used to help provide post-YLF training

opportunities for the graduates of the MO-YLF.



Save the Date: MO-YLF July 12-16, 2016

by Dawn Evans



ship, citizenship, social, and career development skills.

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is hosted by the Governor's Council on Disability and Paraquad. This program is not funded by state revenues.

All funding is handled through Paraquad, a nonprofit, 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible.

looking for applicants from all areas of the state. The application is [available online](http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm) at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>

For questions, please contact the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum at (800) 877-8249 or (573) 751-2600.

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) is a unique 5 day training program for high schools students with disabilities, ages 16-21, designed to cultivate leader-

If you know of a student with disabilities who has leadership potential, please share the information about this exciting program with them. GCD is



2015 MO-YLF delegates meet with Governor Nixon in his office

GCD publishes 2015 Annual Report

by Claudia Browner

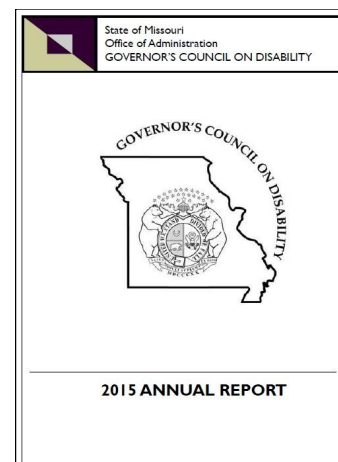
Per statute, the Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) is required to publish an annual report each year.

Compiling this report provided opportunity to reflect on the goals we have accomplished in 2015, and focus on the tasks that lie ahead for 2016.

Some of the highlights for 2015 were:

- Linda Baker retired from GCD after more than 19 years with the agency
- Rob Honan was rehired as the Executive Director
- Yvonne Wright was appointed as the Chair for GCD
- A record number of 27 delegates attended the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum
- GCD began publishing the quarterly newsletter
- GCD and partnering agencies hosted the Hands Around the Capitol event
- GCD introduced LEP on the Road

To read the entire [annual report](http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/files/2015_AnnualReport.pdf), please visit our website at http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/files/2015_AnnualReport.pdf



Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair,
New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D.,
Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock,
Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D.,
St. Louis
- Jeff Grisamore,
Lee's Summit
- Ronald Hack,
St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter,
St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield,
Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega,
Fulton
- Susan Orton,
Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith,
Osage Beach
- James Trout,
St. Louis
- Robert Wallace,
St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan,
Executive Director
- Claudia Browner,
Office Manager
- Dawn Evans,
MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth,
Legislative Coordinator

GCD names 2015 Award Winners

by Claudia Browner

2015 Inclusion Award Winners

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) has selected the award winner and honorable mention of the **24th Annual Inclusion Award**.

The Inclusion Award and one Honorable Mention are presented annually to recognize private and public employers, individuals, and organizations that have successfully included people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, and leisure activities. Individuals are also encouraged to nominate state and local government divisions or employees they truly feel excel in inclusive practices.

The **2015 Inclusion Award winner** is the **THRIVE** program in Warrensburg.

Transformation, Health, Responsibility, Independence, Vocation, Education (THRIVE) are the goals of any college student. At the University of Central Missouri (UCM), they are the foundation of THRIVE. This two-year certificate program prepares students with disabilities for independent living, personal interaction, and employment fitting their goals and abilities. THRIVE provides improved academic abilities, interaction with age peers, computer skills, job skills, and career-focused internships. THRIVE partners with UCM's Communication Disorders, Kinesiology, Social Work, Counselor Education, and others to develop the knowledge of their own students for the benefit of the THRIVE program. Students in peer organizations of fraternities, sororities, intramurals, and other UCM groups embrace the THRIVE students and will ultimately become employers who hire persons with disabilities. THRIVE graduates have achieved results equivalent to other college students.

The **Honorable Mention for 2015** goes to **Kelsey Mack** of Blue Springs.

Kelsey's dream was to create and operate her own business, to assist other individuals with disabilities, to be more fully included and explore their talents through employment. As a result, Kelsey created The Bird's Nest in November 2014.

Located in Blue Springs, The Bird's Nest is a gift shop which sells items handcrafted solely by individuals with disabilities. Kelsey's secondary goal is to hire these same individuals to work within the shop. During 2014 and 2015, Kelsey signed 27 crafters, bakers, and artists to sell their creations, and has employed an adult with a traumatic brain injury to create her logo. Kelsey has demonstrated excellence in leadership and advocacy within The Bird's Nest.

For additional information about the Inclusion Awards, please contact GCD at 573-751-2600 or by email at gcd@oa.mo.gov
On the web: <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclwin.htm>

2015 Youth Leadership Award Winner

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) has selected the winner of the **3rd Annual Youth Leadership Award**. The Youth Leadership Award is a program to recognize an outstanding Missouri youth (age 16-26) with a disability that has demonstrated exemplary leadership by making a difference in their community.

The **3rd Annual Youth Leadership Award winner** is **Caitlin Bartley**

Caitlin recently graduated from Lincoln University (LU) with a double major in Psychology and Social Work with Magna Cum Laude honors, and has been accepted into the Masters Program at the University of Missouri, where she will continue her quest to help others through social work. Caitlin's disability is severe, but she has never let this be an obstacle to her accomplishments. Attributes like self-awareness, proactive involvement, perseverance, goal-setting, and the use of effective support systems have led her to a successful and rewarding life. On LU campus, Caitlin initiated changes in two of the main buildings to make them accessible.

Her achievements and honors include: MDA Goodwill Ambassador for central Missouri; Missouri Youth Leadership Forum graduate; Speaker for Children's Miracle Network Radiothon, Women's Rights Conference, Transition Summit, and Power Up Assistive Technology Conference; Assistant Secretary to LU's Student Government Association, and member of the Women's Leadership Academy at LU.

For additional information, please contact GCD at 573-751-2600 or by email at gcd@oa.mo.gov
Web: <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipaward.htm>

The awards will be presented at the Missouri Assistive Technology's **Power Up conference** at the St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles on April 19, 2016.



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2016 Disability Rights Legislative Day

by Rob Honan



The 15th annual Missouri Disability Rights Legislative Day, with a theme of “**Freedom to Choose my Own Path,**” took place on March 10th at the Capitol Rotunda.

Over 425 people from all over Missouri attended the rally to hear exciting, enthusiastic and informative speakers and to learn about legislative issues. The day culminated with many of the audience participants visiting their legislators to tell their stories and advocate for legislative bills that are important to them.



There were a wide variety of speakers, from advocates, to state attorneys, to elected officials. All of the speakers had important information to give to the audience and the range of topics reflected this.

From information on guardianship reform to the Money Follows the Person Program to Medicaid Asset Limit and to Medicaid Buy-in, there was something for everyone.

Andrew Lackey and Becky Dickey were the co-chairs of the event and they were able to recruit the following outstanding speakers:

Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Chuck Graham, Reg Turnbull, Representative Kevin Engler,

Cathy Enfield, Stephanie Briscoe, Brian Weisel, Chris Worth, Stella Vanvacter, and Senator Eric Schmitt.

(Photo above: Audience at Disability Rights Legislative Day)



Photo on right: Rob Honan introduces speakers at the Disability Rights Legislative Day.

Spotlight on Bullying

by Laura Mueth



Bullying is a topic of importance in the 2016 legislative session. Four bills seek to address bullying in educational settings. They are House Bills 1384 and 1583 and Senate Bills 728 and 748. The bill that is farthest through the process is House Bill 1583 sponsored by Representative Allen.

Bullying, particularly of students with disabilities, is an issue that the GCD staff hears about often from adults and young people in school today. Last year, this was a topic during the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. I recently saw a television commercial from Shriners Hospitals for

Children featuring individuals with physical disabilities including RJ Mitte, an actor who has Cerebral Palsy and was bullied growing up. The commercial discusses the need to prevent bullying and asks the public to take the pledge. You can view the commercial at:

<https://vimeo.com/107625290>

You can find out more about the Cut the Bull campaign at <http://cutthebull.org/>. It provides an opportunity for individuals to share stories of bullying and become educated. Although this campaign only addresses bullying of people with physical disabilities, the GCD recognizes it can happen to anyone with any type of disability.

Unfortunately, suicidal thoughts and suicide can sometimes be the result for an individual who has been bullied. Two bills have been introduced this session with the aim of educating teachers and students. They are House Bill 1656 and Senate Bill 627.

A concurrent resolution has been introduced geared toward the general public. These pieces of legislation may not have been introduced because of bullying, but could assist in the recognition of issues resulting from bullying.

2016 Autism Society Day on the Hill

By Spencer Hunley, Missouri Youth Leadership Forum 2004 Alum



The 2016 Autism Society Day on the Hill was a good experience, and allowed me to meet with various legislator offices and other affiliates and discuss ideas and methods that may have not been shared nor considered before. Even though Congress was in recess during the week of February 17-19, it was still a fruitful experience that taught me a lot about working with legislators to further our policy goals.

The first training session went over basic information, very useful if you were new to this event and/or visiting with legislators/legislative offices and their staff. It was thorough and provided a lot of tools to use, as well as explanations as to why the Hill functions the way it does - and how to use that to your advantage. We went over a few priorities and bills - one I chose to focus on intently was HR 927 - also known as the Keeping All Students Safe Act.

In summary, it directs the Department of Education to establish minimum standards

that prohibit seclusion/restraint unless such measures are required to eliminate imminent danger of physical injury to student or others and certain precautions are taken; requires LEAs (Local Education Authorities) to ensure sufficient number of school personnel who receive state-approved crisis intervention training & first aid certification; and finally, prohibits physical restraint or seclusion from being written into a student's education plan, individual safety plan, behavioral plan, or individual education program as a planned intervention.

In my opinion, I think seclusion and restraint should be completely banned in school settings; however, after some thorough research and study, I was shocked to find that seclusion and restraint is already being used in public schools in many parts of our country; some districts have even built seclusion rooms inside classrooms for this practice. The sad fact is that a full ban wouldn't end seclusion

and restraint, but compel it into a hidden and secretive part of our schools, which opens the potential for abuse. This bill, while not banning it altogether, forces schools to also disclose to parents the same day any seclusion or restraint is used upon a student - which will significantly lessen the likelihood of abusive and life-threatening conditions and actions being committed, while ensuring that parents of all students (non-verbal and otherwise) are properly informed if/when their child is secluded or restrained. It's a step in the right direction towards ending this outdated, obsolete and cruel practice.

Maria Town, a self-advocate who is the Associate Director of Public Engagement for the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs at The White House, spoke with us and provided a view from someone who has a disability who works within the D.C. system.



Spencer Hunley and Legislative Correspondent Bryan Wells

The next day, we boarded the bus for the Capitol. I met with Abby Pezzi, Senior Policy Advisor with Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins; Legislative Correspondent Krysten Thomas, with Senator Claire McCaskill; Legislative Correspondent Bryan Wells, with Senator Pat Roberts; and Joe Eannello, Legislative Director for Congressman Kevin Yoder.

I took away a few things that can be useful in future meetings with legislators, whether locally at home or in D.C.:

- Write hand-written thank you notes to each person you met with. It goes a long way and is much more likely to be remembered than another e-mail in their inbox.
- Visit their district office. If their staff routinely commutes between their D.C. and local office, this is a great way to reinforce who you are and what you're advocating.
- Don't demand, give. Give information, resources, something useful or informative. Pins, DVDs, CDs, USB storage devices, pamphlets, even simple flyers are all great ways of giving something that will get you remembered. Don't demand to know how the legislator will be voting or demand a promise of a vote.
- Remember that legislation you're advocating for or against may not be passed or voted down - that's a normal part of the lobbying and advocacy process.

State Agency Report—Missouri State Highway Patrol

By Capt. David A. Flannigan, Missouri State Highway Patrol

Editor's note: *There are a number of state liaisons from the various departments that participate in our quarterly meetings, and shortly after the February 8th meeting I sent out an email requesting success stories from various state departments. The following article was provided by Captain David Flannigan of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.*

We have a three-story building that houses over 100 employees during the day and a couple dozen employees during the second and third shifts. An employee who is a wheelchair user works during

the first shift on the first floor, which has one uni-sex accessible restroom in the public area and one accessible restroom each for males and females in the employee area. The problem that occasionally arose was that when our employee with mobility issues needed to use the restroom and it was occupied, the individual was forced to either wait or take the elevator to the third floor (the second floor is a secure area) and there were times when neither of these options were viable.

To address this problem, our maintenance staff took a look

at the structure (including plumbing and electrical connections) and devised an excellent plan to transform a portion of a large first floor utility closet to a uni-sex accessible restroom. This new restroom is located across the hall from the existing employee restrooms. We were thrilled to be able to come up with a resolution that assisted our employees.

During this process, I used information from the GCD office and the Office of Administration FMDC to achieve our goal.



Spencer Hunley and Legislative Correspondent Krysten Thomas



Apply Now for MO-YLF



The Governor's Council on Disability is still accepting applications for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) from delegates and volunteer staff.

MO-YLF is a unique 5 day training program for high schools students with disabilities, ages 16-21, designed to cultivate leadership, citizenship, social, and career development skills. The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is hosted by the Governor's Council on Disability and Paraquad. This program is not funded by state revenues.

All funding is handled through Paraquad, a nonprofit, 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible.

If you know of a student with disabilities who has leadership

potential, please share the information about this exciting program with them. GCD is looking for applicants from all areas of the state.

The applications for delegates and staff are [available online](http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylyf.htm) at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylyf.htm>

For questions, please contact the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum at (800) 877-8249 or (573) 751-2600.



MO-YLF delegates and staff on MU campus

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Jeff Grisamore, Lee's Summit
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter, St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Fulton
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith, Osage Beach
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan, Executive Director
- Claudia Browner, Office Manager
- Dawn Evans, MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth, Legislative Coordinator

Mobility Management Planning in Missouri

By Rob Honan

There are some exciting things going on with transportation in Missouri for rural Missourians with disabilities, seniors, and low income individuals. For the last three years, citizens in 19 counties have had access to better transportation coordination than in the past, and I spoke with one of the persons who is making this happen on a regional level. I interviewed Holly Kreienkamp, who is the Mobility Manager of the Meramec Regional Planning Council (MRPC):

How did this project start?

In 2012, the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (now: [Missouri DD Council](#) (MODDC)) offered up \$20,000 cash and \$6,667 in-kind seed funds for a pilot project to develop and implement a strategy to promote Human Service Transportation. The project turned out to be Mobility Management Programs (MMP), and the MMPs are housed in three Regional Planning Councils: MRPC, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (Warrenton), and Mid-MO Regional Planning Commission (Columbia). The scope of the project is 19 counties.

What is "Coordinated Transportation" and what is the role of the MMPs :

"Coordinated transportation" is primarily a transportation referral service that utilizes many different transportation providers. As part of the referral process, individuals seeking transportation can access: [MORIDES.org](#) or the three MMPs to learn more about their transportation options. The MMPs are employees of the three regional planning commissions who provide information to the public, plan and run quarterly meetings and work MODOT and the DD Council to operate the program.

Since the program has started are you seeing increased numbers of people using transportation?

Because the MMPs do not actually provide transportation, the actual numbers are not known, but we are seeing an increase in the number of calls about how to access transportation.

What is the average cost of a ride?

Again, the costs vary by provider. Transportation users can go to [MORIDES.org](#) to find out how to contact providers for fare charges. In addition to the transportation providers in the 19 counties of the three existing MMPs, users can access all transportation options for the entire state of Missouri, including some in Illinois.

What are some of the innovative things that you have done?

In July of this year, we are going to offer a Mobility Management Voucher Program. The program will assist individuals that have exhausted all other options and cannot afford transportation. The program will provide up to two vouchers per person. The maximum value of each voucher will be \$10. The voucher program was developed to assist people with their transportation needs with an overall effort of improving transportation services within the Meramec Region. In addition, for a 45-day period, MRPC is partnering with Schwan's Cares in a fundraising campaign to provide much needed dollars to help cover transit costs when there is no other way to provide a ride. Schwann's Home Delivery Service will give 20% of product sales & 40% of eGift card sales back to MRPC to support the MMP program.



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability

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2015 GCD Awards at Power Up

by Claudia Browner

Each year at the annual Power Up Assistive Technology conference, the Governor's Council on Disability presents the Inclusion Award and Youth Leadership Award winners with their awards. More than 500 individuals were gathered at the conference center in St. Charles as GCD Executive Director Rob Honan presented the awards to the winners.

The THRIVE Program at University of Central Missouri, in Warrensburg is the 2015 Inclusion Awards winner.



Karen Fahrmeier accepts the Inclusion Award from Rob Honan

Transformation, Health, Responsibility, Independence, Vocation, Education (THRIVE) are the goals of any college student. At the University of Central Missouri (UCM), they are the foundation of THRIVE. This two-year certificate program prepares students with disabilities for independent

living, personal interaction, and employment fitting their goals and abilities. THRIVE provides improved academic abilities, interaction with age peers, computer skills, job skills, and career-focused internships.

Karen Fahrmeier accepted the award on behalf of the program.



Caitlin Bartley (center) and her guests arrive at the GCD awards luncheon

The 2015 Youth Leadership Award winner is Caitlin Bartley. Caitlin recently graduated from Lincoln University (LU) with a double major in Psychology and Social Work with Magna Cum Laude honors, and has been accepted into the Masters Program at the University of Missouri, where she will continue her quest to help others through social work. Caitlin's self-awareness, proactive involvement, perseverance, goal-setting, and the use of effective support systems have led her to a successful and rewarding life.

On LU campus, Caitlin initiated changes in two of the main buildings to make them accessible. Caitlin is a graduate of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.

The Honorable Mention for the 2015 Inclusion Award was awarded to Kelsey Mack, owner of The Birds Nest in Blue Springs. Kelsey's dream was to create and operate her own business, to assist other individuals with disabilities, to be more fully included and explore their talents through employment. As a result, Kelsey created The Bird's Nest in November 2014. The Bird's Nest is a gift shop which sells items handcrafted solely by individuals with disabilities, and all of The Birds Nest's employees are individuals with disabilities. Kelsey Mack was unable to attend the GCD awards luncheon at the Power Up conference. Rob Honan visited her at The Birds Nest on April 30th to present the award.



Kelsey Mack shows off the Honorable Mention award



Emergency preparedness begins with you!



Sample Emergency Kit

Emergency Preparedness: Prepare Yourself

Missouri has had its fair share of disasters in the past, from flooding to fires to earthquakes. Even though these often cannot be avoided, the impact on your personal life can be mitigated with planning and preparation. It is important that everyone has an all-hazards preparedness plan in place so that if there is an emergency, you are able to take care of your needs and know what resources may be available. What is such a plan? What does it look like? What can you do to prepare yourself and your loved ones?

There are many good, free resources that are available to help you put a plan in place. One resource in Missouri is *Ready in 3* (<http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyn3/>). Information about *Ready in 3* is available through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. *Ready in 3* focuses on 3 steps that will help individuals prepare for emergencies. Those steps are: 1) Create a Plan, 2) Prepare a Kit, and 3) Listen for Information.

When you create your plan, think about your needs and the needs of your family members. If you have a disability, you need to think about your needs specific to your disability. Think about your capabilities in an emergency. It is always a good idea to create a personal support network for when you are home, at school or at work. In addition to any Personal Care Assistants (PCA) you may have, also have at least three people in your network who will provide assistance if needed. It is a good idea to provide training to those individuals about your personal care needs before there is an emergency so that they know how to help you in an emergency.

Other items to include in your plan (your "kit") are copies of insurance and prescription cards with detailed informa-

tion about your current prescriptions to include any allergies. Include names, addresses and phone numbers for your doctors, specialists, therapists, pharmacists, PCAs, your Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier and other people who you would need to contact in an emergency. It is also a good idea to include a printed list of telephone contacts from your cell phone because you may not have cell service. If you have a service animal or pet, don't forget to include important veterinarian records and contact information.

If there is an emergency, you may not be able to get food or water for several days or even longer and you may be without electricity. Basic supplies for emergency kits are water, canned (don't forget to include a manual can opener) or dried food that doesn't need to be cooked just in the event you don't have power. Also, include a battery powered radio so you can get information, a flashlight, first aid kit, hygiene items, and extra batteries for the radio and flashlight.

In addition to the basic items, include things specific to your needs. Some items you may need could include special formulas, an EpiPen for allergies, extra oxygen, an extra battery for a wheelchair, catheters or other consumable medical equipment, a portable ramp or compression hose. If you absolutely need an item, make sure it is in your kit. Be sure to include items for your service animal or pet!

You will also want to include essential items in a smaller kit that you would take with you if you had to leave your home or work. This is often referred to as a "go-bag" or "bug-out bag." Include the important contact information discussed above, in that bag. Include cash as your credit or debit cards won't work if the power is out.

Don't get overwhelmed by feeling like you have to have an

emergency kit and go-bag put together right away. You can build your kit and bag on a budget by adding an item or two to your purchase when you go to the grocery store.

Several resources where you can learn more about emergency planning on a budget include [Do 1 Thing](#), a [Preparedness Calendar](#) and [Tips for Preparing a Budget-Friendly Preparedness Kit](#). Once you have your kits, remember to develop a system to rotate the items so the products aren't expired when the emergency occurs.

When there is an emergency, listen for information about updates and any instructions you may need. Social media is a great resource if you connect to a reliable source of information like news stations, the emergency management agency, Red Cross, Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) or other resources. Sign up with your local weather station to get weather alert texts so you know when there is a weather emergency. The [Red Cross](#) also has some great apps for phones such as the Flood App, Tornado App, Earthquake App, Shelter App and even a Pet First Aid App. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also has an [app](#) available that will provide valuable information that can be used for emergency events.

Get involved in your community. Volunteer with your Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army or faith-based organization. Sign up to participate in the [Great Central U.S. ShakeOut](#) on October 20, 2016 and learn how to prepare for an earthquake emergency.

Remember – advanced planning is critical. It is every citizen's responsibility to prepare for emergencies.

By Vicky Davidson, Executive Director Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (edits from original submission by Rob Honan)

Delegates Selected for the 2016 MO-YLF

by Dawn Evans

[Congratulations](#) to the 2016 [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF) delegates. The selection committee has made their decisions and acceptance packets were mailed to 35 High School students across the State of Missouri.

Each one of these students was selected through a competitive application process which consisted of submitting an application, writing an essay, providing references, and completing a phone interview. To be selected the students must:

- Demonstrate Leadership Potential
- Demonstrate involvement in extracurricular activities
- Demonstrate an interest in community involvement
- Demonstrate an ability to interact effectively with other students
- Demonstrate a positive

attitude and be an exemplary role model

On July 12 these delegates will arrive at the University of Missouri Campus to spend five days that will provide them with confidence and tools to empower them for a successful transition into their adult lives.

During this week delegates will:

- Gain knowledge in career exploration and preparation, disability history and culture, and assistive technology
- Learn about self-advocacy by participating in a mock legislative session with legislators
- Identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to remove barriers
- Develop a Personal Leadership Plan outlining their goals

- Interact with others with similar hopes and dreams

Goals of the program:

- Young Adults with disabilities will become employed and be self-sufficient
- Young adults with disabilities will be knowledgeable about resources available to them to become successful adults
- Young adults with disabilities will be exposed to professionals with disabilities who are recognized leaders and inspiring role models

The 2016 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum will be held July 12-16 at the University of Missouri in Columbia.



Accessibility in Missouri's Great Outdoors

Department of Natural Resources—Missouri State Parks



Do you like to camp or do other fun outdoor activities in the summer? Are you in need of accessible features and facilities? Well, look no further than the information provided on the Missouri State Parks website:

<https://mostateparks.com/page/61837/accessibility-information-park-or-historic-site>.

Happy Camping!

Missouri Department of Conservation

If you like to fish, hunt, boat, go birding, or other outdoor activities, visit the Department of Conservation's website for a listing of accessible sites:

<http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/accessible-outdoors>

Local City and County Parks

In addition to state parks and conservation sites, there are local parks and trails that are accessible to all. Jefferson City, for example, offers a paved greenway system throughout town that is shared by individuals who walk, run, roll or ride their bicycles. So get out there and enjoy the Missouri outdoors!



Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Jeff Grisamore, Lee's Summit
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter, St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Fulton
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith, Osage Beach
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

2016 Legislative Priorities/Passed Bills

by Laura Mueth



The 2016 legislative session has come to an end. This session was significant for individuals with disabilities because many bills that have been worked on for years were Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed by the legislature. The majority still require Governor Nixon's signature to become law.

Two of the bills are ones that have been mentioned in previous newsletters. One of these bills is [House Bill 1565](#). Beginning in fiscal year 2018, it would increase the asset limit from its current level of \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for couples to \$5,000 for individuals and

\$10,000 for couples by fiscal year 2021. The increase would occur on an incremental basis and then in fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent year be adjusted for the cost-of-living.

The other is [House Bill 1583](#). It would modify the definition of bullying and define cyber-bullying. It allows school districts to discipline for cyber-bullying no matter where it occurs. It also includes provisions allowing teachers the option to complete up to two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention annually as part of professional development hours. School districts must develop a policy addressing strategies to assist in identifying students who are at possible risk for suicide.

[House Bill 1631](#) and [House Joint Resolution 53](#) concern requiring photo identification from anyone who wishes to vote in an election. The bill requires individuals to show specific forms of photo identification prior to casting a ballot. Those who do not have one of the forms of identification will be able to cast a regular ballot if they sign a statement under penalty of perjury that they are qualified to vote and show another form of identification. Those who refuse to sign the statement will be able to cast a provisional ballot. The bill requires the State of Missouri to provide a non-driver's license at no cost to anyone needing an ID to vote. This includes paying for any documents necessary to obtain the ID. The bill will only become law if House Joint Resolution 53 is approved by voters and funds are appropriated in the state budget to reimburse election authorities for the costs. House Joint Resolution 53 would amend Article VIII of the Missouri Constitution to include a photo identification requirement in order to vote in the state.

GCD publishes Position Papers

by Claudia Browner

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan, Executive Director
- Claudia Browner, Office Manager
- Dawn Evans, MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth, Legislative Coordinator

In the fall of 2015, the Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) set out to develop position papers on issues and topics that are important to people with disabilities.

The Council's subcommittees on education, employment, housing, and transportation, along with experts from outside agencies worked together to develop position papers on the following topics:

- [Education](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Transportation](#)

By April of 2016, these position papers were ready for approval by the full Council and were approved by the Council members at the April 22 Council meeting.

The position papers are available to the public on GCD's website at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/positionpapers.htm>

The Governor's Council on Disability invites you to read the position papers and share the information with others who might be interested.



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability

Volume 2, Number 4, July 2016

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

GCD Director's Report

by Rob Honan

Inside this Issue

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- **14th Annual MO-YLF a Great Success**

Page 4:

- **Your Vote is Your Voice**
- **2016 Legislative Priorities Poll**

While the Summer Heat still scorches, a time of transition is upon the Governor's Council on Disability (GCD), the state, and the nation.

One of GCD's major programs, the 2016 [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#), was just held. Dawn Evans, who did a great job leading this program for the last five years, is moving on to other adventures, and we are about to start the process of hiring Dawn's replacement.

Governor Jay Nixon finished signing the last set of bills sent to him by the General Assembly before he leaves office in January. Some of the bills he signed were important to the disability community. These bills are discussed in more detail in the next few paragraphs.

In the May newsletter, we reported that three bills had passed the General Assembly, including [HB 1565](#) and [HB 1583](#). Both of these bills are extremely important and I am happy to say that the Governor signed them in June.

HB 1565 has a long history in Missouri because limits for MO-HealthNet eligibility for singles and couples has remained constant since the early 1970s. And we know that the prices of items people buy don't necessarily stay still. And, of course, having a disability is not very cheap. So, it was quite welcome when Governor signed the bill into law.



Governor Nixon speaks about the importance of HB 1565 at Paraquad, Inc. (above) Paraquad Executive Director Aimee Wehmeier looks on as Gov. Nixon signs HB 1565 (below)
Photo credit: Paraquad, Inc.



Hearing, created grants for agencies to train SSPs (Support Service Providers) for Deaf/Blind Missourians. There are more details on this piece of legislation forthcoming, but the signing the law was a great first step.

For a long time, and still to this day, having a disability often makes you the target of unwanted harassment and bullying. There is no simple and singular way to address this issue, but it is very important that young kids should be aware of how harmful it is, and for that reason I was very pleased that Governor Nixon signed HB 1583 into law. This law will give additional resources to schools to fight bullying.

An additional bill that GCD was tracking was [HB 1696](#). This was also signed by Governor Nixon. This law, administered by the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of

On the federal front, as I write this column, many of our disability advocate brothers and sisters are in Washington D.C. working with the U.S. Congress to fight for additional funding for Centers for Independent Living, advocate for more dollars for in-home services and to safeguard against encroachments against the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Notification Act).

On this 26th anniversary of the ADA, it is still important to remember the words of Justin Dart, "Get involved in politics as if your life depended on it—because it does."



Rob Honan presented Dawn Evans with a plaque for her 5 years of service to the Governor's Council on Disability

2016 Paralympic Games: Missouri Connections

by Laura Mueth

Olympic fever will not end in August. For those with disabilities it continues into September.

Vanessa Erskine, whose hometown is Kearney, will compete in women's wheelchair basketball.

Cheer on these Missouri-ans and all the other athletes by watching coverage on NBC, NBCSN, and TeamUSA.org.



The 2016 Paralympics will take place from **September 7 to 18** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Twenty-three sports will have competitions. They are: archery, athletics, boccia, sprint canoe, road cycling, track cycling, equestrian, five-a-side soccer (football), seven-a-side soccer (football), goalball, judo, power lifting, rowing, sailing, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, table tennis, triathlon, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair rugby, and wheelchair tennis. The sprint or paracanoe and triathlon will be making their debut. Some sports such as goalball and judo have only athletes with visual impairments.

The official website is <https://www.rio2016.com/en/paralympics/>.

At least six of the athletes have ties to Missouri. Colleen Young will be competing in swimming. She was born and currently lives in St. Louis. She is also an alumna of the Youth Leadership Forum.

Kerri Morgan will be competing in track and field. She is employed by Washington University and is the chair of Paraquads' Board of Directors.

David Brown will also be competing in track and field. St. Louis is his hometown and he graduated from the Missouri School for the Blind in 2011.

John Gilbert, born in Fairfax, Missouri, a graduate of the University of Missouri -- Columbia and currently residing in Salisbury, Missouri will be competing in men's wheelchair basketball.

Dan Regan who is originally from St. Louis will be competing in Men's Sitting Volleyball.

Two paralympic staff members also reside in Missouri. The head coach of the Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team is Ron Lykins who is the head coach of the Mizzou wheelchair basketball team. Scott Meyer, the team leader for the Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team resides in Columbia.

[Disabled Athlete Sports Association \(DASA\)](#) in St. Peters is a Paralympic Sport Club that works with athletes in some of the summer paralympic sports.



Kerri Morgan, Paralympic athlete from St. Louis



Colleen Young, Paralympic swimmer and alumna of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum

Photo credit: Special School District of St. Louis County

14th Annual MO-YLF a Great Success

by Claudia Browner



A record number of 29 delegates from 16 different Missouri counties attended this year's [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF), held July 11-16 at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Each year, MO-YLF provides high school students with disabilities a week-long college experience, where they learn about disability history, advocacy, the legislative process, transition to employment or higher education, adaptive technology and adaptive sports.

In addition, delegates meet with successful mentors with disabilities, visit the state capitol for a mock legislative session with state legislators, and hear exceptional keynote speakers.

After small and large group learning sessions throughout each day, the evenings are filled with fun activities such as Adaptive Sports Night, a Talent Show, and a Dance Party with the MO-YLF Alumni.

The MO-YLF ends with a graduation banquet with staff, parents, and guests where the delegates give presentations about the things they have learned during the week.

Selecting the most qualified delegates is very important for a successful MO-YLF, but having a solid planning committee and finding the right staff to lead the teams is just as critical. New on board as volunteer staff this year were several employees from MU's Hook Center, a non-profit initiative for pre-employment transition services, along with employees from Easter Seals Mid-Missouri, The Whole Person, and 10 alumni of the MO-YLF.

The alumni have founded the MYLIFE Alumni Association and after this year's MO-YLF, there are 273 alumni who have graduated from the program. The alumni association keeps the alumni connected by organizing meetings and events throughout the year and helping with the planning for the

annual MO-YLF conference, as well as volunteering as staff.

The MO-YLF is funded entirely from sponsorships and donations. Delegates attend the conference at no cost. Without the support and investment of the sponsors, this conference would not be possible.

We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors of the 2016 MO-YLF:

Vocational Rehabilitation, Edward Jones, Missouri Mental Health Foundation, Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council, Missouri Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Services for Independent Living, as well as several other agencies who provided in-kind donations.

This year, all the components came together for a successful MO-YLF—great delegates, fantastic staff and alumni, and exceptional sponsors.

Thank you to all of you!

We are looking forward to next year's MO-YLF already.



Photos:
2016 MO-YLF delegates and staff inside the Governor's Office (top)
Delegates and staff in meeting room on MU campus (bottom)

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair,
New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D,
Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock,
Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D.,
St. Louis
- Jeff Grisamore,
Lee's Summit
- Ronald Hack,
St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter,
St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield,
Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega,
Fulton
- Susan Orton,
Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith,
Osage Beach
- James Trout,
St. Louis
- Robert Wallace,
St. Louis

Your Vote is Your Voice

By Laura Mueth

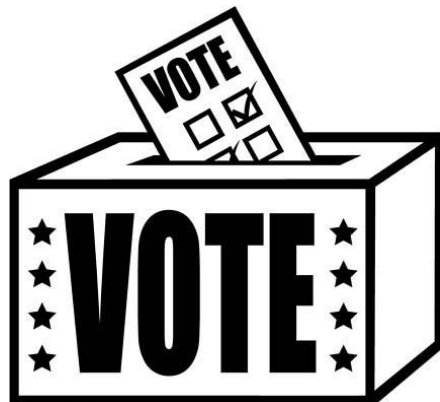
Be sure to register to vote before the November election. Use one of the following ways to ensure your voice is heard.

1. The Secretary of State's website: <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register.aspx>
2. Request an application by phone at 573-751-4936.
3. In person at a license office, county clerk's office, or any other government office that provides public services.

Upcoming election dates:

August 2: **Primary** (deadline to register was July 6)

November 8: **General Election** (deadline to register is October 12)



"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

2016 Legislative Priorities Poll

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan,
Executive Director
- Claudia Browner,
Office Manager
- Dawn Evans,
MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth,
Legislative Coordinator

The **2016 GCD Legislative Priorities Poll** will be coming soon!

Each year the Governor's Council on Disability develops and distributes a Legislative Priorities Poll to assist the GCD in understanding issues important to Missourians with disabilities and those who work and live with them.

Watch your email for details. If you would like to be notified when it is released, email Laura Mueth at Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov.



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 2, Number 5, October 2016

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

GCD Director's Report

by Rob Honan

Inside this Issue

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- **GCD Awards Programs**
- **2016 Legislative Priorities Poll**

As summer recedes into fall, it is time to reflect on what has recently transpired and what lies ahead of us. After a long, hot summer, we are now experiencing cooler weather. Along with the cooler weather, the days are getting shorter, school has begun, the Chiefs and Tigers are battling it out on the gridiron and October is just around the corner. So, begins a very busy month.

The Youth Leadership Forum wound down in July with a record number of delegates. Even though the event ended, the process is year-round. Next year's planning started on July 17th (the day the forum ended). Because we had to say goodbye to Dawn Evans, the first step was to hire a go-getter, a planner and someone who already has connections. We are very fortunate to have hired Judy Grainger to carry the baton forward. Please see page 2 for more about her.

October is "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." I know that it sometimes sounds strange and redundant that we have to actually "celebrate" a month for employment of people with disabilities, but I like it because it reminds all of us that we still have a lot of work left to do in this area. The

promise of full employment of people with disabilities has not yet been met, but we must continue this effort to create jobs for all of us. I am hopeful that with the concentrated emphasis on youth transition in the Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) employment outcomes will improve. WIOA is a tool that has a lot of promise.

This is an election year and there are elections on all levels of government. The implications of these elections are huge. There is a lot at stake at the local, state and national levels—and we are a better nation when we have full voting participation. You can still register to vote until the October 12th deadline. And if you are registered, please make every effort to vote.

At the end of the month, I'll be attending two conferences: One here in Missouri and one in Nevada. The Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services or MACDDS, for short, will host its conference in late October. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening on the county level, but also to reconnect with colleagues from around the state to see what innovative

things they are doing. The other exciting opportunity lies in Reno, Nevada, where the National APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) conference will be taking place. The focus of this gathering is the empowerment of youth in the independent living movement.

At our recent council meeting, the Council presented and passed a motion to add a third award, "The Website/IT Award" to the list of GCD recognition awards. This award will recognize a business or local government (state and federal government are not eligible) that has an outstanding and fully accessible website. Please check back to disability.mo.gov/gcd for more information in the coming days.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Governor's Council on Disability, please do not hesitate to contact us at 573-751-2600 or email: Robert.honan@oa.mo.gov

Introduction to Judy

by Judy Grainger



Judy Grainger

I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received from the staff and council members of the GCD. In my role as the Disability Program Specialist, I will focus on facilitating the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). I have spent the last 24 years working with individuals with disabilities providing residential, employment and case management supports. Most recently, I have worked in the adult service provider community focusing on the development of employment programs responding to the needs of persons with disabilities and the business community.

I am the current President of the Board of Directors for Missouri Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE). I have also served as an officer and on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (MARF), a coalition of statewide community providers committed to enhancing

the lives of Missourians with disabilities through legislation. Additionally, I was a founding member of the Inclusion Coalition for Employment of Metro St. Louis, which is a local collaboration formed to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

I am off to a quick start and have jumped into the planning of the 15th annual Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. For more information on how to get involved in the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum – either as a delegate, volunteer or donor contact me at judy.grainger@oa.mo.gov or 800-877-8249.



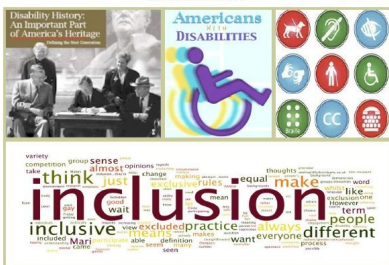
The 15th annual [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) will be held July 18-22, 2017 at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

For more information, please visit <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/yf.htm>

October is Disability History & Awareness Month

by Claudia Browner

October is
Disability History and Awareness Month
in Missouri



This year marks the 5th anniversary of the passage of HB 555 in Missouri, which designated the month of October as Disability History and Awareness Month.

Nationwide, October is celebrated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The Governor's Council on Disability celebrates these events by hosting a Disability History and Awareness, and Employment display in the Truman State Office Building during the month of October. Stop by and see the display on the 2nd floor if you are in Jefferson City.

To learn more about disability history and find great resources on how to promote and celebrate Disability History Month, download the

[Disability History and Awareness: A Resource Guide for Missouri](#)

or visit disability.mo.gov and click on Educational Resources.

You can always stay up to date on what's happening at the Governor's Council on Disability by visiting our website or following us on [Facebook](#). **Please stop by and "Like" our page!**

To find the GCD on Facebook, click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Governors-Council-on-Disability/102027953218042>



Employers Embrace Hiring People with Disabilities

by Svetlana Bostick (St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment: SLATE)

The second annual *Accommodation for Success* event, sponsored by numerous organizations (see below), highlighted the transformative benefits of hiring persons with disabilities and addressed the fears about employing these individuals. The two-day event took place on August 9 – 10, 2016, at the St. Louis Community College's Florissant Valley Campus. The employment rate for individuals with disabilities remains at 20 percent but key stakeholders believe this can be improved dramatically – the overall goal of this event.

This year's *Accommodation for Success* focused on the successes of hiring people with disabilities.

New was a Job Fair, a separate event where job seekers with disabilities had the opportunity to network with the employers. Over 100 individuals, representing estimated 70 different businesses, attended the keynote and panel discussion on August 9. An estimated 229 job seekers, along with 49 participating employers, attended the Job Fair on August 10 – participation beyond everyone's expectations.

A keynote speaker, Andrew Sartorius, delivered a powerful and inspiring message. An attorney and successful graduate of the Starkloff Disability Institute and a MO-YLF alumnus, Sartorius is legally blind and had to learn to advocate for his needs early in his life. Now, he continues to support the disability community, and emphasized personal empowerment: "People with disabilities have to meet halfway for accommodations...Stop hiding behind excuses. Move forward, *be bold*," he said.



Keynote Speaker Andrew Sartorius

The 2016 *Accommodations for Success* event would not have been possible without the generous support of Gold-level sponsors - US Bank, Kiosite, Ranken Technical College, Challenge Unlimited and SSM Health. In-kind contributions

were provided by MERS / Missouri Goodwill (continental breakfast for both days). St. Louis Community College (location), Job News USA (advertising), various Missouri Job Centers, including SLATE (staffing, career workshops), Job Corps (students for parking lots, greeters), and Independent Living Centers, such as Delta Center, Paraquad, Disability Resource Association and others (volunteers and outreach).

A Dress for Success mobile trailer was parked nearby for use by participants. The outpouring of support was truly heartwarming.

Special recognition goes to the members of St. Louis Regional Disability Committee who selflessly donated their time and energy to making this event a huge success. The committee consists of individuals from Missouri Job Centers representing St. Charles County, St. Louis County, Jefferson/Franklin Counties, and St. Louis City, Vocational Rehabilitation, MERS/Goodwill, Department of Mental Health, and Challenge Unlimited.

Jennifer Trudeau, PR Advocate for Challenge Unlimited, member of St. Louis Regional Disability Committee, said: "People with disabilities constitute the largest minority group... we've come a long way, but it's really these types of events that pave the way to action and transformation for generations to come."



Photo on left: Accommodations for Success Job Fair

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

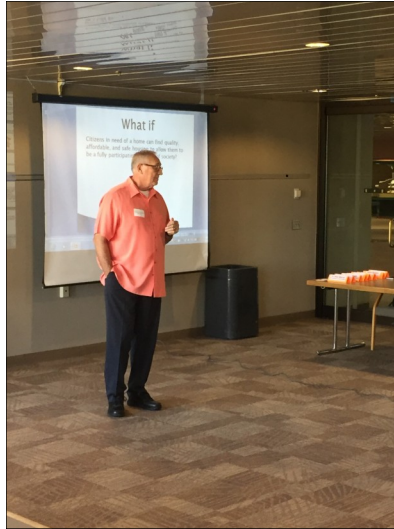
- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter, St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Fulton
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith, Osage Beach
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan, Executive Director
- Claudia Browner, Office Manager
- Judy Grainger, MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth, Legislative Coordinator

Housing Taskforce Meeting

By Rob Honan



The Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation, the Missouri DD Council and the Governor's Council on Disability hosted a housing planning workshop on September 30, 2016 to develop some "next steps" in creating a state where safe, accessible, and affordable housing is available for all Missourians. The workshop was led by Wayne Crawford (pictured here), and was attended by 20 people representing organizations and agencies from across the State of Missouri.



GCD Awards Programs

By Claudia Browner

The Governor's Council on Disability recognizes individuals and organizations who exemplify and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities through its annual award programs.

The [Inclusion Award](#) honors a Missouri resident, organization or business that illustrates excellence in leadership for the "best of the best inclusion practices".

The [Youth Leadership Award](#) honors a youth with a disability that is demonstrating outstanding leadership, advocacy, and dedication to the disability community in Missouri.

New in 2016, the [Website/IT Award](#) will honor an organization, business, or local government that provides an outstanding and fully accessible website.

Nominations for these awards will be available online beginning in October and will be due January 31, 2017. The award winners will be honored at the Power Up conference in April.

2016 Legislative Priorities Poll

The [GCD Legislative Priorities Poll](#) continues!

We appreciate those who have taken time to share their views and spread the word. If you have not, make sure and complete it by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28!

The responses received help shape the Council's legislative priorities and interactions with legislators for the 2017 legislative session. It can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YL39SDJ>. It is also available in Word and PDF format. Please contact Laura Mueth (Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov) for details.



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability

Volume 2, Number 6, December 2016

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

Tools for Life Transition Summit

by Judy Grainger

Inside this Issue

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- **MPACT Tools for Life Transition Summit**

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- **Service Animal Videos**
- **Director's Report**

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- **MFP Success Story**
- **Legislative Poll Results**

Page 4:

Important GCD Program Reminders—

- **Legislative Education Project**
- **GCD Awards Programs**
- **MO-YLF**

On October 27, GCD collaborated with Missouri Parents Act (MPACT) to host the Tools for Life Transition Summit for nearly 400 youth, family members and educators.

MPACT is a statewide parent training and information center that serves parents of children with all disabilities. Its primary goal is to assist parents in their efforts to effectively advocate for their children's educational rights and services. MPACT staff and volunteers are located throughout Missouri and work with public and private agencies, parent groups, professional organizations and advocacy groups to achieve that goal. MPACT's mission is to empower families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life - through support, training, and education.

Students, families and educators from across the state convened at the Harry S. Truman Building in Jefferson City to learn about issues pertinent to transitioning from school to adulthood. Sessions included

information on how to deal with bullying, use of assistive technology, services provided through Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Workforce Development under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), accessible affordable housing options, students rights for transition as directed under Title II of the ADA and Section 504, services offered by Independent Living Centers, Social Security work incentives, and sessions targeting a smooth transition to the world of work. Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)



YLF Alumna, Caitlin Bartley facilitated a breakout session sharing her personal story of self-determination. Caitlin's presentation delivered a powerful message to students, their families and educators. Caitlin shared her story of perseverance, even when others told her that her goals were "unrealistic." Caitlin's life lessons of advocacy will be shared at this summer's Youth Leadership Forum's closing banquet.



Alumni, Rachel Baskerville, Joe Reneker and Brittany McCurley joined GCD staff and hosted a session providing an overview and panel discussion of the YLF. The group presented to a full room of students looking for information and who asked a great number of questions about YLF. As a result of the presentation, a number of students expressed an interest in applying for the upcoming Youth Leadership Forum.



Photos:

Bottom left: Judy Grainger and MO-YLF alumni at the GCD exhibit booth.

Center: Joe Reneker speaks during the panel discussion.

Top right: Caitlin Bartley speaks at a breakout session.

Service Animal videos

by Laura Mueth

Four new videos are now on the State of Missouri's Disability Portal. They address the most frequently asked service animal topics by individuals who call our office or come in contact with our staff. Their purpose is to provide an easy way for individuals to learn about the laws and issues surrounding service animals.

One video defines service animals and the rights of those individuals who use them.

Another discusses the rights of service animal handlers in places of public accommodation and housing.

A third explains how an individual can obtain a service animal and concerns regarding fraudulent use.



The fourth outlines filing a complaint with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and includes some information on filing a complaint with the United States Department of Justice if an individual believes they have been discriminated against due to his or her use of a service animal.

There are two sets of videos. One set has the option for captioning. The other has descriptive video for those who are blind or visually impaired. Both sets can be found at <http://disability.mo.gov/serviceanimals.htm>.

GCD Director's Report

by Rob Honan

Now that the Thanksgiving Holiday and election are behind us, I am looking towards the Holiday Season and the forthcoming New Year.

The elections have come and gone. The people have spoken and state agencies will continue to work for the Governor and taxpayers of the state. Disability is very unique in that it covers the broad political spectrum in terms of policy solutions to the many disability issues AND the people affected by the broad approach to public policy are very diverse themselves. This is one reason that I enjoy working in this arena: not only are the people interesting and from all walks of life, but the approaches to policy can be diverse and creative. I may not agree with all policy positions, but all

individuals with disabilities are worth listening to and working with.

What are some of the things to look forward to in 2017?

With the election of Eric Schmitt as Missouri State Treasurer, the ABLE Act (SB 174 from the 2015 legislative session) that was signed into law by Governor Nixon in 2015 will be implemented. It has the potential to assist families who have enormous expenses related to disability. This is very exciting and fitting since Treasurer-elect Schmitt was also the sponsor of SB 174.

Another exciting development is that with the signing of HB 1565 in 2016, asset limits for individuals and couples who use Medicaid will increase

under the new law. This increase goes into effect in July of this year. This is a very big deal and it is because of you, those eligible will have more money going into their pockets.

2017 promises to be an interesting year in the state capitol.

The legislature convenes at noon on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. There is a tremendous opportunity for you make your voices heard. In addition to legislative advocacy, there is also administrative advocacy at the Governor's office. Your voice should also be known to him and his staff because he will ultimately determine the fate of bills passed in the legislature either by his veto pen or by signing passed bills into law.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Success Story

by Julie Lamons, Department of Social Services



The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program helps people who have disabilities and those who are aging to move from a nursing facility or habilitation center back into a place in the community that meets their needs and wants.

The objectives of MFP—My Life, My Way, My Community are:

- to move people from a facility to the community;
- identify and eliminate barriers that prevent people from being able to move to the community;
- improve the ability of MO HealthNet to provide in-home services;
- and to ensure that there is continuous quality improvement of in-home services provided.

Money Follows the Person helped Latisha move from a nursing home back into her community.

Latisha's story about her successful transition into the community is available online at

<https://youtu.be/pMP9dvWNNtI>

If you have questions about Money Follows the Person, visit <http://on.mo.gov/mfp> or call 573-751-8021 or send an email to:

MHD.MoneyFollowsPerson@ds.s.mo.gov

Legislative Poll Results

by Laura Mueth and Rob Honan

The Governor's Council on Disability recently conducted its annual poll to determine the level of importance disability-related issues have to Missourians impacted by disability through their personal and/or professional lives. The results have already been shared with Council members and will be shared with state legislators, and other interested groups.

Four hundred nine (409) polls were returned. Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the group or groups to which they belonged: person with a disability, family member/friend, government agency employee, service provider, educator, employer, other.

The person with a disability category was marked 140 times. Of the other respondents, 138 were a family member/friend,

65 represented a government agency, 97 were service providers, 14 were educators, 21 were employers, and 42 marked other.

Individuals with disabilities were given the option to indicate what type or types of disability they have: blind/vision impairment (22), chronic health condition (52), multiple chemical sensitivity (4), cognitive (28), deaf/hard of hearing (31), developmental (26), intellectual (13), learning (21), mobility (61), psychological (32), and other (48).

As indicated by self-report, 70 (17.11%) live in urban areas, 163 (39.85) live in suburban areas, and 176 (43.03%) live in rural areas. All twenty-two centers for independent living are represented. In addition, there were 74 counties represented in the survey.

The top five priorities of the survey are based on the combined intensity of "strongly agree" and "agree" responses. Here are the top five results:

1. Private insurance covering hearing aids
2. MO HealthNet expanding to cover adult hearing aids
3. Maintaining the motorcycle helmet law
4. Tax credit for small businesses who hire and employ someone with a disability
5. MO HealthNet Aged Blind and Disabled population expansion

The detailed report can be accessed at http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/legislative_priorities_poll.htm.

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair,
New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D.,
Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock,
Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D.,
St. Louis
- Ronald Hack,
St. Louis
- Mary Ann Harter,
St. Louis
- Todd Mayfield,
Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega,
Columbia
- Susan Orton,
Creve Coeur
- Derek Smith,
Osage Beach
- James Trout,
St. Louis
- Robert Wallace,
St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Robert Honan,
Executive Director
- Claudia Browner,
Office Manager
- Judy Grainger,
MO-YLF Coordinator
- Laura Mueth,
Legislative Coordinator

Important GCD Program Reminders

By Claudia Browner

Legislative Education Project

- **Are you interested in learning about the legislative process in Missouri?**
- **Do you want to find out about legislation that affects the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities?**
- **Do you want to advocate for people with disabilities?**

If you have answered "yes" the [Legislative Education Project](#) is right for you.

The **LEP at the Capitol** provides to opportunity to receive updates on disability-related bills, attend committee hearings, and meet with legislators. It is a one-day program offered in at the capitol in Jefferson City.

The **LEP on the Road** brings the LEP to your office, meeting, center for independent living, or event.

Educational videos and learning modules about the legislative process and accessible voting are available online at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/LEP.htm>

For more information or to sign up for the LEP, please contact Laura Mueth at (573) 751-2600.

The 2017 legislative session will convene Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. Bills can be pre-filed beginning December 1, 2016. The inauguration of Governor-elect Eric Greitens will take place on Monday, January 9, 2017. The legislative session will be on break March 20-24 and April 17. The session will end on May 12, 2017 at 6 p.m.

GCD Awards Programs

Please help the Governor's Council on Disability recognize individuals and organizations who exemplify and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities through its annual award programs by submitting a nomination.

The **Inclusion Award** honors a Missouri resident, organization or business that illustrates excellence in leadership for the "best of the best inclusion practices".

The **Youth Leadership Award** honors a youth with a disability that is demonstrating outstanding leadership, advocacy, and dedication to the disability community in Missouri.

New in 2016, the **Website/IT Award** will honor an organization, business, or local government that provides an outstanding and fully accessible website.

Award nominations can be completed online and are due January 31, 2017.

The award winners will be honored at the Power Up conference in April.

2017 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum

Do you know any youth with disabilities (ages 16-21) who have leadership potential? If so, please encourage them to apply for the 2017 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.

The 15th annual [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) will be held July 18-22, 2017 at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

For more information and the online application, please visit <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>
Apply early— Applications are due February 28, 2017!